



# How did invaders change Ramsgate and the Isle of Thanet?



Read carefully through the newspaper article from The Guardian. Find three reasons that historians believe they have found the spot where Caesar took his first steps in England.

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Why is it important for historians to find multiple sources of evidence when analysing the past?

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# theguardian

November 2017

## Caesar's invasion of Britain began from Pegwell Bay in Kent, say archaeologists

Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain was launched from the sandy shores of Pegwell Bay on the most easterly tip of Kent, according to fresh evidence unearthed by archaeologists.

Researchers named the wide, shallow bay the most likely landing spot for the Roman fleet after excavators found the remains of a defensive base dating to the first century BC in the nearby hamlet of Ebbsfleet, near Ramsgate.

"This is the first archaeological evidence we have for Julius Caesar's invasion of Britain," said Andrew Fitzpatrick, a researcher at the University of Leicester. "It's a large defended site that dates to the first century BC."

Further excavations uncovered bones that appear to have been damaged in fights and iron weapons, including a Roman pilum or javelin.



© University of Leicester

The point of a Roman pilum found in the defensive ditch at Ebbsfleet.

The archaeologists believe the site included a Roman fort and served to protect Caesar's ships from attackers coming from the north. "The main purpose of the site is to defend the fleet," Fitzpatrick said.

The Roman general's own account of the invasion describes how the fleet set off from France on the night of 4 July but got swept eastwards by currents when the wind failed. Early the next morning, the crew spotted England and rowed west to reach land at about noon.

Pegwell Bay is the only large bay on the east coast of Kent with an open sandy shore that could accommodate the vast fleet, the archaeologists believe. With at least 20,000 men and two thousand horses to disembark, the ships would have taken up more than a kilometre of beach when they arrived.



The site of Caesar's encampment.





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November 2017

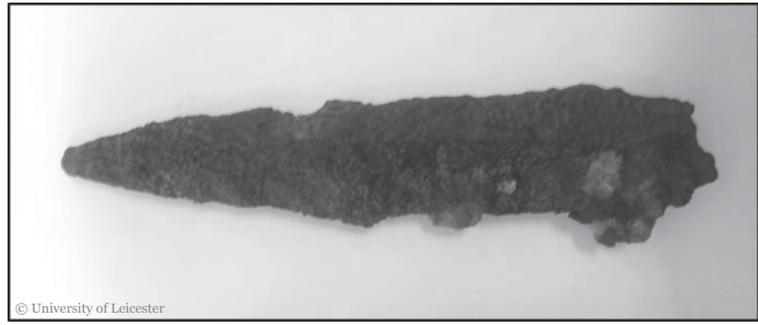
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# Local History

Historic England and Teacher's Pet have come together to bring you a collection of free resources that you can use in your local history teaching.

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Historic England



Teacher's Pet

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## Who are Teacher's Pet?

Teacher's Pet have been providing downloadable and playable educational content to early years and primary school teachers for over 14 years. We cover all areas of the curriculum and use a team of in-house teachers and designers to create engaging and memorable concepts, that the children will love.

## Why local history?

At [Teacher's Pet](#) we want to empower primary school teachers by giving them the tools they need to deliver inspiring and thoughtful lessons about the local area and its history. We believe local history teaching has such an important part to play in a child's wellbeing – helping to give children a sense of pride in where they live.

Our Local History project is designed to provide teachers across the UK with everything they need to successfully carry out a full scheme of teaching about their local area, through key enquiry questions and source led activities.

Working with [Historic England](#) gives us access to archived maps and photos for resources and information from knowledgeable local historians, as well helping us to provide the content to you free of charge.

For more information about our Local History project or to find out more about Teacher's Pet Classroom Resources, please visit our website.